

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3058

S E C R E T TEHRAN 4915

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDH

TAGS: MARR, VS, IR

SUBJECT: SUCCESSOR TO CANADA ON ICCS

REF: . TEHRAN 4642

B. STATE 132231

1. WHATEVER IRANIAN VIEWS MAY BE ON TAKING OVER FROM CANADA ON ICCS -- WE HAVE CAREFULLY REFRAINED FROM DISCUSSING SUBJECT WITH GOI -- WE BELIEVE IT CONTRARY TO OUR INTERESTS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND DETRIMENTAL TO PRESENT EXCELLENT STATE OF US-IRANIAN RELATIONS TO CONSIDER IRAN AS CANDIDATE FOR THIS JOB.

2. AS DEPARTMENT FULLY AWARE, WE PRESENTLY ENJOY EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH IRAN. IN ALL OF ASIA IT IS HARD TO IDENTIFY ANOTHER COUNTRY IN WHICH OUR INTERESTS ARE BETTER SERVED. WE DERIVE NUMEROUS BENEFITS FROM THIS RELATIONSHIP THAT CONTRIBUTE TO OUR VITAL STRATEGIC NEEDS. WE SEE LITTLE TO BE GAINED AND MUCH TO BE LOST WE WERE TO INTRODUCE INTO THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS THE IRRITANTS THAT WOULD INEVITABLY DEVELOP AS IRAN STARTED TO PLAY AT ICCS ROLE IN VIETNAM. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ICCS ARE VAGUE AT BEST AND PROBLEM-RIDDEN, AND IRAN WOULD HAVE TO INHERIT DIFFICULTIES WHICH LED CANADA TO WITHDRAW.

3. FURTHER, IF IRAN WERE TO SUCCEED CANADA, GOI WOULD HAVE TO ASSUME ROLE AS SPOKESMAN OR REPRESENTATIVE

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OF US ON ICCS AND WOULD FREQUENTLY BE PUT IN POSITION OF

OPPOSING POLAND AND HUNGARY. SINCE WE HAVE OTHER VITAL INTERESTS IN THIS PART OF ASIA IN WHICH IRAN CAN PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE(ENERGY PROBLEMS, PERSIAN GULF, ETC.), WE QUESTION WHETHER IT IS IN OUR INTERESTS TO HAVE IRAN ASSUME THIS POSTURE. EFFECTIVENESS OF IRAN'S ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST COULD BE UNDERMINED IF IT PUBLICLY BORE THE IMPRINT OF FRONT-RUNNER FOR US IN VIETNAM.

4. ALSO, AS IRAN DEVELOPS AND STRENGTHENS ITSELF AND SEEKS TO ASSUME MORE RESPONSIBLE ROLE FOR PEACEKEEPING IN THIS AREA IN BEST TRADITION OF NIXON DOCTRINE, IT SEEMS TO US US INTERESTS ARE BETTER ADVANCED BY HAVING IRAN CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS IN THIS STRATEGICALLY VITAL AREA AND NOT DILUTE THEM BY OVEREXTENDING ITSELF IN WHAT IS AT BEST A MOST DIFFICULT ROLE IN ANOTHER PART OF ASIA.
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